Some of you might be asking “Why is Hillel so big on Shabbat dinners? Why student and alumni engagement? Why Birthright? Why weekly lunch-and-learns?” What motivates us in making programmatic or financial decisions? What guides us? The most immediate answer is Hillel’s vision – inspiring every Jewish student to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. But there is more – intentionality.

We know that immersive experiences, such as Birthright or Alternative Spring Breaks lead to further Jewish engagement. We doubled our Birthright recruitment and re-instated our Alternative Break program. We know that one-on-one, ongoing learning sessions with a rabbi lead to meaningful outcomes, which is why we invested in a rabbi position last year, and established ongoing learning. We know that in addition to 2,000 Jewish undergrads, there are close to 7,000 Jews living in downtown Miami, many of whom are proud ‘Canes, so not working with them would do a disservice to the Jewish people, that’s why we are launching Base Miami this Fall.

Reading through this year’s report, you will find that University of Miami Hillel has grown, marked significant milestones, and established various programmatic and fundraising initiatives. We hired new, and retained great staff. UM Hillel is at a point when we are investing our efforts not only in our undergraduate population, but also have created the infrastructure to offer meaningful Jewish life to our alumni residing in the Miami area.

I am proud to lead UM Hillel. It is exciting and incredibly rewarding to be a part of this organization and I invite you to join me!

Igor Khokhlov,
Executive Director
2017 HIGHLIGHTS

ISRAEL BIRTHRIGHT & ONWARD PARTICIPATION GREW FROM 85 IN 2016 TO 121 IN 2017

INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENTS DOUBLED FROM 309 IN 2016, TO 641 IN 2017

HILLEL EVENTS GREW FROM 130 IN 2016 TO 260 IN 2017

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS DOUBLED FROM 687 IN 2016 TO 1171 IN 2017
**PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

“Hillel was crucial in the decision making of how I discovered my expression of Judaism. At a pivotal moment on my Jewish journey, Hillel was there to help develop a pathway to understand what kind of person I would become. The pluralist approach to creating meaningful Jewish experiences in college is one of the last opportunities for young Jews to make personal choices of their relationship to community whether it be through religion, Israel advocacy or social action. I am indebted to Hillel and for this I pay it forward.”

– Larry Spiegelman, President, University of Miami Hillel Board of Directors

**STUDENT PRESIDENT**

“I have treasured every minute of being President of University of Miami Hillel. I chose to be the President of this organization because of its flourishing community and the infectious positive energy that it brings to our campus. Hillel has taught me that being Jewish and living a Jewish life is so much more than reading blessings and praying on Friday nights, it is about community. I find it beyond rewarding when I see the students take advantage of everything Hillel has to offer.”

– Seth Manilove, Student President, Class of 2018

**UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

“Here at the University of Miami, Hillel gives Jewish students a place to call home—a place where they can connect with their culture, deepen their spirituality, energize their commitment to community service and develop relationships that will last a lifetime.”

– President Julio Frenk, University of Miami
JEWISH STUDENT LIFE
THE ART WALK HAVDALLAH

Once a month the Wynwood neighborhood transforms into an art venue - UM Hillel took students for an art walk and Havdallah in one of the trendiest neighborhood in Miami.

PAINTING FOR PEACE

A campus-wide partnership initiative with six Greek Houses, StandWithUs, The David Project, Emet, Hasbara, and Housing and Residential Life.

CAMPUSED ENGAGEMENT INTERNSHIP

“I don’t need to observe Shabbat every single week to be Jewish, but just the fact that I take time for myself, surround myself with amazing people, and look after others means I’m being Jewish in the greatest sense.”

- Hillel Engagement Intern

LUNCH-AND-LEARN

Weekly learning sessions led by Rabbi Lyle Rothman

HILLEL 75TH ANNIVERSARY

UM Hillel celebrates 75 years! A student wins a car in a raffle!
“Hillel is my second home.”
"Hillel is my second home."
UM Hillel has established strategic national partnerships, some of the highlights include an inaugural Latinos and Jews United Conference that was hosted at the Braman Miller Center by The American Jewish Committee and the David Project. Over three days we hosted 30 students from nine universities.

Combined Jewish Philanthropies in Boston, MA has chosen UM Hillel as one as one of the 17 campuses across the USA to place an IACT Israel Engagement professional as a full time staff, as a result our Birthright and Onward Israel (summer internship program) recruitment grew by 41%.

Greater Miami Jewish Federation awarded UM Hillel with a tailored Women Empowerment Grant, which allowed UM Hillel to create the “In Conversation With” a series with notable Jewish women who are making strides in their respective fields of expertise.

Hillel International chose UM Hillel to join the Excellence Accelerator, which focuses on Capacity and Operational Excellence in four key areas: Lay Leadership and Governance; Development; Fiscal Health; and Measurement and Data.

Our own Karem Sandgarten, UM Hillel’s Director of Finance and Operations receives the highest Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award from Hillel International in December 2016.
Alternative Spring Break – Rabbi Lyle Rothman led 14 University of Miami students, on a life changing experience during seven day, service trip to Havana, Cuba. They spent their days touring the eclectic city, visiting Jewish community centers, Jewish cemeteries, and celebrating Jewish traditions with locals from the Cuban Jewish community.

Samantha Ulin, Class of 2019, reflects on her experience, “I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to explore Israel with such an amazing group of people. Birthright and Israel definitely hold a special place in my heart now and I can’t wait until I can return again.”
“I felt all types of emotions but at the end of the day what I felt the most was how proud I am to be a Jew.”

-JAKE TEPLITZKY, CLASS OF 2020-
University of Miami Hillel is excited to open “Base Miami” in Brickell, one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in Miami. UM Hillel continues to be on the cutting edge of innovative initiatives aimed at cultivating the next generation of Jewish leaders. Base Miami is supported by the Mason-Glazier Fund for Jewish Identity at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. In partnership with Hillel International’s Office of Innovation.

Start of this program, comes as a response to the 2014 Greater Miami Jewish Population Study. The Study indicated that the greatest growth in the Jewish community since 2004 has been in Miami’s under age 35 population. Research shows that these young Jews seek meaning, yet remain unaffiliated, and by opening Base Miami, it would allow UM Hillel to quite literally meet them where they are.

A rabbinic couple, Rabbi Adam and Jessie Gindea, were hired to run Base Miami, they will provide ongoing learning and social service opportunities to young Jewish adults in the area.
The Braman Miller Center has been the central venue for communal Miami events, as well as the University of Miami.

- Award – The Braman Miller Center was awarded 2017 Outstanding Restoration Project presented by the Chamber of Commerce and City of Coral Gables.

- Welcoming the President of Peru, Pedro Kuczynski, at the Miami Herald’s International Symposium, alongside UM’s President Julio Frenk.

- Zika Forum - Gaining a broader perspective on current health concerns, such as Zika, by hosting the University Of Miami Miller School Of Medicine, Institute for Bioethics.

- Learn more and reserve our venue at bmcmmiami.org
FAMILY WEEKEND AND HIGH HOLIDAYS
SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2017


Celebrate High Holidays ‘Canes style with UM Hillel. All services are led by Rabbi Lyle Rothman.

TRI-STATE PARENT RECEPTION
OCTOBER 24, 2017


Join Families, and UM Hillel’s leadership for a warm family reception at the house of Robyn and Jeff Teplitzky.

ABBY STEIN
NOVEMBER 6, 6:30PM

Women Empowerment Series: Abby is the first openly transgender woman raised in a Hasidic community, and is a direct descendant of Hasidic Judaism’s founder the Baal Shem Tov.
ERIN ZAIKIS
JANUARY 31, 2018
Women Empowerment Series: CEO of IsraAID, a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to providing life-saving disaster relief and long term support. Erin also founded public health nonprofit, which runs soap recycling initiatives in undeserved communities across Myanmar, Uganda and India, focused on hygiene education, female empowerment through fair wage jobs and environmentally friendly development practices.

JEWISH CUBA ADULT MISSION
JANUARY 3-7, 2018
Register/More Information: miamihillel.org/cuba
UM Hillel is excited to offer an all inclusive trip to explore Jewish Cuba, open exclusively to adults. The trip package includes: a round-trip flight from Miami, hotel in Havana, ground travel on a dedicated bus, tour guide, Cuban visa, 2 meals a day at local restaurants. Number of seats is very limited, cost is $2,999

UM HILLEL CASINO NIGHT
NOVEMBER 29, 2017
For one night only UM Hillel will transform into a beautiful casino with games and entertainment for everyone. Friends, delicious food and open bar will elevate your night. All the proceeds from this event will support Jewish life at the U.
$10,000 - $24,999

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$780,266

34% = 34% Grants
25% = 25% Community
16% = 16% Board of Directors
12% = 12% Parents, Alumni, Students
7% = 7% Family Foundations
6% = 6% Program Revenue
$1-99

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M allory M ades
B onita M alt
S eth M anilove
Eileen and M ichael M asciale
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A nnette Yellin
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J erome Zaks
K aren and R obert Zinn
Dahlia Zobar
“I am thrilled that my son is attending UM. As a freshman, Ryan immediately got involved with Hillel Life, and this summer went to Israel with the UM Hillel Birthright group. When I was asked if I wanted to get involved as a parent and an alum, I was excited and honored to participate in an organization that enriches the life of Jewish students on campus.”

- ROBB STEINBERG, CLASS OF 1994, PARENT
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